

MS PGPUB
PATENT
0505-1203P



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Noboru YOKOYA Conf.: 1034
Appl. No.: 10/602,656 Group: 3617
Filed: June 25, 2003 Examiner: J.D. SOTELO
For: EXHAUST SYSTEM FOR A SMALL WATERCRAFT

REPLY TO ERRONEOUS INDICATION OF PUBLICATION FEE DUE

MS PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 23, 2004

Sir:

The following was received in the above-identified application:

- A separate Notice of Publication Fee Due
- A Notice of Allowance with an indication of Publication Fee due.

It is believed that this requirement for a publication fee by the USPTO is in error. In particular, the above-identified application:

- Has had a Request and Certification Under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(i) for non-publication filed therein;
- Is a Design application;
- Should issue as a patent more than four (4) weeks prior to the projected publication date; or

- The application was only filed as a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), which does not trigger publication;

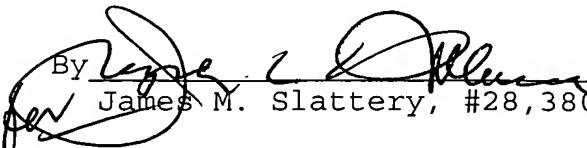
and according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.211(e) the publication fee should not be due.

In view of the Official Gazette Notice of July 31, 2001, 1248 O.G. 166, Applicant(s) hereby authorize the USPTO to charge the publication fee to Deposit Account 02-2448, if necessary. However, the USPTO should **not charge** the Deposit Account if the patent issues within sufficient time to remove the application from the publication queue. The USPTO is requested to notify the undersigned if the Deposit Account is charged.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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